

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Overview of the Office Action

Claims 1-23 have been rejected by the Examiner under 35 U.S.C. § 102(a) as being anticipated by Koppolu (U.S. Patent No. 5,706,458).

Status of the Claims/Amendments

Claims 9-23 have been canceled to further prosecution of Claims 1-8, said Claims 9-23 being canceled without prejudice to Applicants' rights to later reintroduce these claims in the present application or pursue said claims in a separate application.

Claims 24-31 have been added.

Claims 1-8 and 24-31 are pending.

Claims Rejected Under 35 U.S.C. § 102(a)

Claims 1-23 have been rejected by the Examiner under 35 U.S.C. § 102(a) as being anticipated by Koppolu (U.S. Patent No. 5,706,458). With regard to Claims 9-23, Applicants have canceled these claims to further prosecution of Claims 1-8 and respectfully submit that the rejection as to Claims 9-23 has been rendered moot.

With regard to Claims 1-8, and without conceding the appropriateness of the Examiner's rejection of said claims in light of Koppolu, Applicants have amended Claim 1 to clarify that said master table is not limited to information pertaining solely to menu commands but, instead, also necessarily comprises at least one of the following information elements: the "available commands" including commands that are not menu commands; the "available command vectors" including command vectors that do not correspond to menu commands; the

“commands that are on toolbars”; and the “commands that map to keystrokes.” No new matter has been introduced into this claim, and support for this amendment can be found in the Specification which states:

The master table includes information regarding available commands, available command vectors, commands that are on menus, commands that are on toolbars and commands that map to keystrokes for the entire application. Generally, a command is invoked by a user to cause software to perform a task. Some examples of typical commands in an application are "file open", "cut", "copy" and "file save". The types of commands that may be used in a host application are virtually unlimited. A command vector is a place a user can go to get a set of commands. Some examples of typical command vectors are menus, toolbars and keyboard emulations.

(Application, page 11, lines 4-11) (emphasis added).

In contrast, the invention of Koppolu is directed solely to a “method and system for generating a **merged menu**” for a “container application” and a “server application” (Abstract, lines 1-4). With reference to Fig. 2 of Koppolu, the relationship between these two applications is described as follows:

FIG. 2 is an example of a user interface provided by the Microsoft Word application program that has generated a document which contains an activated worksheet object 204 created by the Microsoft Excel application program. The document is a **compound document** which contains data in different formats (i.e., word processing and worksheet). The Microsoft Word application program that generates this compound document is a **container application program**. The data of each format are referred to as "objects." An application program which generates an object is a **server application program**. For instance, the document 216 contains a worksheet object 204 which is generated by the server application program.

(col. 1, lines 40-52) (emphasis added). In addition, Koppolu also states the following:

It is an object of the present invention to provide a method and system for **merging menus of application programs**.

It is another object of the present invention to provide a method and system for resolving a conflict between corresponding menus while **merging menus of a container and a server application program**.

These and other objects, which will become apparent as the invention is more fully described below, are provided by **a method and system for merging a container menu of a container application program with a server menu of a server application program**. In a preferred embodiment, the conflict resolution (CR) protocol determines whether the container menu corresponds to the server menu. When the container menu corresponds to the server menu, the CR protocol generates a combined menu. Next, the CR protocol adds the container menu as a sub-menu of the combined menu and adds the server menu as a sub-menu of the combined menu. The combined menu is then displayed when the server application program is activated. Because the combined menu contains both the container menu and the server menu, a user can select either menu when the server application program is activated.

(col. 4, lines 46-51) (emphasis added). Thus the Koppolu reference is exclusively directed to a merging the menus of two applications and teaches nothing regarding non-menu commands, non-menu command vectors, toolbars, or keyboard commands. As such, Koppolu fails to teach each and every element of Claim 1.

In order to anticipate a claimed invention, a prior art reference must teach or suggest each and every element present in the claim. Koppolu does not teach or suggest a unified user interface comprising a master table that is not limited to menu commands but, instead, also necessarily comprises at least one of the following information elements: the “available commands” including commands that are not menu commands; the “available command vectors” including command vectors that do not correspond to menus commands; the “commands that are on toolbars”; and the “commands that map to keystrokes.” For this reason, Applicants respectfully submit that Koppolu fails to teach or suggest all the claim elements necessary to anticipate the present invention of Claim 1 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(a). Moreover,

since Claims 2-8 directly or indirectly depend on Claim 1, and since claims that depend upon an allowable claim are also allowable, Applicants respectfully submit that these claims are also allowable. Therefore, Applicants respectfully request that the rejection of Claims 1-8 be withdrawn and that said claims be allowed to issue.

In addition, Applicants have added new claims 24-31. These claims are directed to a computer-readable medium comprising computer-readable instructions for implementing the elements claimed in Claims 1-8, and no new matter has been added. Therefore, in light of Applicants arguments regarding the allowability of Claims 1-8, Applicants further submit that Claims 24-31 are likewise allowable.

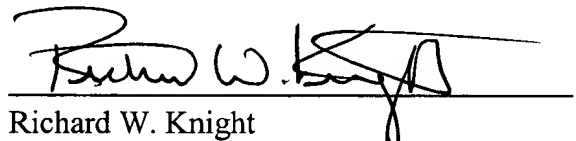
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CONCLUSION

Based on the reasons and rationale set forth herein, Applicants respectfully submit that the objections and rejections have been overcome and, accordingly, Applicants request that the objections and rejections be withdrawn and that the pending claims be allowed to issue. Should the Examiner have any questions, comments, or suggestions that would expedite the prosecution of the present case to allowance, Applicants' undersigned representative earnestly requests a telephone conference at (206) 332-1394.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: January 6, 2005


Richard W. Knight
Registration No. 42,751

Woodcock Washburn LLP
One Liberty Place - 46th Floor
Philadelphia PA 19103
Telephone: (215) 568-3100
Facsimile: (215) 568-3439